

Serial No. 10/691,483

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REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 12-16 and 18-20 are pending herein, Claims 1 and 12 being the only independent claims. Claims 8-11 and 17 were cancelled in the Amendment filed July 11, 2005. Claims 1 and 12 are amended herein.

In response to the Examiner's Reply Brief, and the clarifications provided therein by the Examiner (for which the Applicant's thank the Examiner), each of the pending independent claims, Claims 1 and 12, has been amended herein to further define the claimed invention over the cited art.

Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed in-car video system includes a video camera fixable mounted to *an automobile...*, a digital video recorder fixably mounted to the *automobile...* wherein the digital video recorder and controller are integrally packaged and *positioned within a factory-sized radio opening of a production automobile...* and further wherein the digital video recorder...*is located in a passenger compartment, of the automobile, such that it is in a direct operative relationship with a user seated in the front seat of the automobile.*

Similarly, Claim 12 has been amended to recite a method of operating a digital video recorder in an *automobile-mounted video system*, the method including "fixably positioning the digital video recorder substantially within a dashboard area of the *automobile* so that the digital video recorder *is located in the passenger compartment of the automobile* and is in a direct operative relationship with a user seated in the front seat of the *automobile*."

Further to the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief filed on September 14, 2006, and the Response to Arguments, presented in paragraph (10) of Examiner's Reply Brief mailed on December 12, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent Claims 1 and 12, as amended herein, is patentable over the art of record (including the combined teachings of Kirmuss, Chuang and Beckert).

Dependent Claims 2-7, 13-16 and 18-20 are believed to be clearly patentable for all of the reasons indicated above with respect to Claims 1 and 12, one or the other from which they depend, and even further distinguish over the cited references by reciting additional narrowing limitations.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits Claims 1-7, 12-16 and 18-20 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Preliminary Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

FEES

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The Examiner is authorized to charge the RCE fee, and any additional fees that may be due and owing in respect to this amendment, to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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